

Workingmen's Houses,
Michael Cane House
391 Southern Avenue
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-AG

HABS
IOWA,
31- DUBU,
14- AG-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

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Site Location: 391 Southern Avenue
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 1.34
Cadastral grid : NW1/4 NE1/4 S36, T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691740.4705880
Lot dimensions : 60.5'x 162': .23 acre
Lot description: Lot 5 of John Breakey's Dubuque

Present Owner: Patrick E. and Carolee A. Fishnick
Present Usage: single family residence
Present Condition : good

Overall Dimensions: 2-story main block: 18'x 26'; 1-story rear addition:
18'x 19'; enclosed side porch: 18'x 7'.

Orientation : south

Architectural Description : Plan type : 2-story rectangle, with 1-story side porch
and rear addition.
Foundation: stone rubble perimeter walls.
Structure : wood frame
Ext. walls: aluminum siding installed in 1978 over beveled
wood siding.
Roof : side-gabled, steeply pitched roof with 3-tab
asphalt shingles.
Chimneys : brick interior end chimney, centered on ridge.
Dormers : none
Windows : (extensively altered); 1/1 aluminum double-hung
replacement windows, placed singly or paired;
plain casings, false shutters on upper level
front.
Openings : single-leaf front door offset under porch -
metal cross buck with one light; similar door
in west side of rear addition; both with plain
casings; bulkhead entrance to basement on west
side.
Porches : (original front porch removed); concrete stoop
on front, with aluminum canopy and wrought iron
columns and handrail.
Details : simply boxed cornices on main roof.

Construction Date : 1881

Architecture Style: Side gabled box

Physical History : Real estate developer John Breakey filed the plat for an
addition to the south side of Dubuque in 1855. Two years later Breakey sold

Lot 5 of his subdivision to Peter McAvoy for \$100. Title evidence suggests that McAvoy built a house on this lot soon thereafter and in 1857 sold the property to Henry Burke for \$312. Burke sold the property to Patrick Walsh in 1867, and Walsh to Hannah O'Hearn [D'Haren] in 1873. In 1880 Michael Cane [Cain, Caine, Kane] bought the lot at a substantial decrease in price, indicating, perhaps, the absence of the house. The next year Cane built this two-story frame building on the lot for \$1000. A warehouseman, Cain occupied the house until his death in April 1917. His heirs retained it as a rental until foreclosure in 1940. In 1975 a 24'x 24' concrete block garage was built immediately west of the house; in 1978 aluminum siding was installed on the building's exterior walls.

Significance: The Michael Cane House is a typically scaled and configured example of the workingmen's houses built along Southern Avenue in the 1880s. Extensive alterations have diminished its integrity substantially.

References: Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1909, 1972.
Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-32-2-25.
Dubuque City Building Permit Record: 391 Southern Avenue.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental
Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of
Transportation, Ames Iowa).
Dubuque Daily Herald: 4 December 1881.

Compiler: Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado.
May 1988.